Setnicar, Mary

From: Burger, Dustin <Dustin.Burger@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 9:32 AM
To: Richardson, John; Setnicar, Mary; gonzalez.rafael@epa.gov
Cc: Syed, Imran; Steve.Nightingale@illinois.gov; Neibergall, Kurt; Liebman, Chris; Kim, John J.
Subject: RE: Clinton Landfill EPCRA Re: Mr. Spencer's memo to us ...

I am unaware of any "explosion" at Clinton Landfill in October of 2014. Illinois EPA did receive a complaint regarding a "toxic cloud" coming from the waste solidification unit at the landfill from that same time period.

Here is an excerpt from my 10/2015 report on the complaint.

Section V.B of Clinton Landfill's permit authorizes the facility to solidify liquid waste. The waste includes industrial wastes and sludges, as well as leachate generated from the landfill's Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) unit. The liquid waste is discharged into a steel railcar buried in the cover on top of the landfill over previously deposited waste. Bottom ash is stored in a large temporary tent and is added to the liquid waste and mixed with a trackhoe to solidify the material until the resultant mixture passes the paint filter test. The liquid/ash mixture is then placed in the active fill. The ash contains a large amount of lime added to the coal when it is burned to control air pollution. When the lime contacts water, the dissolution reaction is very exothermic and generates heat. The reaction can cause the liquid to bubble and froth. What is pictured in the photo is steam rising from the solidification unit. On cold days, especially if the is humidity is high, the steam from the warm water can be seen condensing in the air. During this inspection, steam can be seen in photo 3 rising from the solidification unit. When I asked Mr. Bryant how hot the liquid became, he said he thought it was 160-200 degrees.

I believe Mr. Spencer has elevated the a cloud of steam rising from the hot water in the solidification unit from being a "toxic cloud" to now being an "explosion." All liquids received at the facility are non-hazardous, and bench trials are required before the waste is accepted for solidification.

Spencer still refers to the landfill as a "hazardous waste landfill", primarily because of its acceptance to MGP source material, despite the fact the waste is specifically exempted from regulation under RCRA.

If Spencer has any better information about an actual explosion or release, then I would be happy to investigate.

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